

REMARKS/COMMENTS

Claims 26-37, 39-42 and 44-48 remain active in the case. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a composite oxide powder which is useful as a catalyst support.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowed subject matter in the case.

Claim Rejection, 35 USC 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 46-48 have been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner to overcome the issue raised with respect to the term obtainable, as well as to obviate the issue regarding whether M_1 must necessarily be cerium and whether M_2 must necessarily be at least one Al, Ti and Si.

As to Claim 48 and the matter of element M_3 , appropriate language has been added to Claim 48 to define the method by which elements M_1 , M_2 and M_3 are formulated in a composite oxide powder. Support for the amendments made to the language of the preparation of an aqueous solution and precipitating steps can be found in paragraph [0053] of page 17 of the text. Withdrawal of the second paragraph rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection, 35 USC 112, First Paragraph

The non-enablement rejection is believed obviated by the discussion above where it is clear that the amendments made to the process steps of Claim 48 find support in paragraph

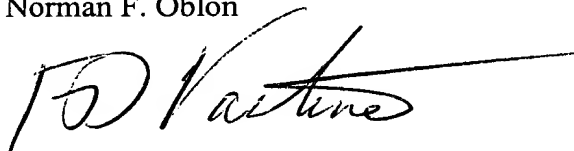
Application No. 09/987,262
Reply to the Office Action of November 30, 2004

[0053] of the specification. Withdrawal of the first paragraph rejection is respectfully requested.

It is now believed that the application is in proper condition for consideration on its merits.

Respectfully submitted,

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Norman F. Oblon

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "FD Vastine", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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